

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 104318 TOSEC 110429

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104318 TOSEC 110429

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM NAIROBI DTD 30 APR 1976 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 4287

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MASS, KE, US

SUBJECT: PRESS STORIES ON U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO KENYA

1. A GROWING NUMBER OF AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS APPEAR TO HAVE LEARNED SOMEHOW OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE FMS CREDITS WE ARE OFFERING TO KENYA AS WELL AS PURPOSE FOR WHICH THESE CREDITS WILL BE USED. AT REQUEST OF GOK, EMBASSY IS DECLINING TO CONFIRM OR DENY THESE REPORTS, POINTING OUT THAT ONLY FMS CREDIT AGREEMENT TO DATE WAS ONE FOR \$5 MILLION SIGNED LAST JUNE AND THAT NO RPT NO TRANSACTIONS FOR ARMS SALES HAVE AS YET BEEN CONCLUDED.

2. WHILE WE REALIZE, AND HAVE SO ADVISED GOK, THAT PROPOSED SALE OF SQUADRON OF F-5E'S WILL BECOME A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD WHEN CONGRESS IS INFORMED NEXT MONTH, GOK NEVERTHELESS REQUESTS THAT USG REFRAIN FROM ANY CONFIRMATION TO PRESS OR BACKGROUNDERS ON THIS SUBJECT DURING INTERIM PERIOD. PREVIOUS PRESS BACKGROUNDER LAST YEAR BY DEPARTMENT OFFICER ON PROPOSED F-5A PROGRAM HAD EXTREMELY UNSETTLING EFFECT HERE. I WOULD HOPE THAT REPETITION OF ANY SUCH INCIDENT COULD BE AVOIDED.

MARSHALL

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PAGE 02 STATE 104318 TOSEC 110429

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